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MAR 20 2006

In re Application of	:	OFFICE OF PETITIONS
Andrew Bishop	:	
Application No. 09/840,663	:	
Filed: April 23, 2001	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Attorney Docket No. Q01-1066-	:	UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.181(A)
US1	:	
Title: DEVICE FOR LIMITING	:	
CURRENT IN A SENSOR	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.181(a) to withdraw the holding of abandonment, filed on September 30, 2005.

The Office regrets the delay in issuing this decision.

BACKGROUND

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to submit the issue and publication fees in a timely manner in reply to the Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due (notice), mailed March 9, 2005, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time are permitted for transmitting issue fees or publication fees¹. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on June 10, 2005.

With the present petition, Petitioner has alleged that the notice of allowability and issue fee due was not received, as it was mailed to the incorrect address.

¹ See MPEP §710.02(e).

The electronic file has been reviewed, and it is clear that the communication in question was mailed to an incorrect address.

RELEVANT PORTION OF THE MPEP

MPEP 711.03(c) states, in part:

PETITION TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT BASED ON FAILURE TO RECEIVE OFFICE ACTION

In *Delgar v. Schulyer*, 172 USPQ 513 (D.D.C. 1971), the court decided that the Office should mail a new Notice of Allowance in view of the evidence presented in support of the contention that the applicant's representative did not receive the original Notice of Allowance. Under the reasoning of *Delgar*, an allegation that an Office action was never received may be considered in a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment. If adequately supported, the Office may grant the petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment and remail the Office action. That is, the reasoning of *Delgar* is applicable regardless of whether an application is held abandoned for failure to timely pay the issue fee (35 U.S.C. 151) or for failure to prosecute (35 U.S.C. 133).

To minimize costs and burdens to practitioners and the Office, the Office has modified the showing required to establish nonreceipt of an Office action. The showing required to establish nonreceipt of an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner stating that the Office communication was not received by the practitioner and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office communication was not received. A copy of the docket record where the nonreceived Office communication would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement. For example, if a three month period for reply was set in the nonreceived Office action, a copy of the docket report showing all replies docketed for a date three months from the mail date of the nonreceived Office action must be submitted as documentary proof of nonreceipt of the Office action. See Notice entitled "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received," 1156 O.G. 53 (November 16, 1993).

The showing outlined above may not be sufficient if there are circumstances that point to a conclusion that the Office action may have been lost after receipt rather than a conclusion that the Office action was lost in the mail (e.g., if the practitioner has a history of not receiving Office actions).

Evidence of nonreceipt of an Office communication or action (e.g., Notice of Abandonment or an advisory action) other than that action to which reply was required to avoid abandonment would not warrant withdrawal of the holding of abandonment. Abandonment takes place by operation of law for failure to reply to an Office action or timely pay the issue fee, not by operation of the mailing of a Notice of Abandonment. See *Lorenz v. Finkl*, 333 F.2d 885, 889-90, 142 USPQ 26, 29-30 (CCPA 1964); *Krahn v. Commissioner*, 15 USPQ2d 1823, 1824 (E.D. Va 1990); *In re Application of Fischer*, 6 USPQ2d 1573, 1574 (Comm'r Pat. 1988).

Two additional procedures are available for reviving an application that has become abandoned due to a failure to reply to an Office Action: (1) a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) based upon unavoidable delay; and (2) a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) based on unintentional delay.

ANALYSIS

The showing in the present petition is not sufficient to withdraw the holding of abandonment.

Although Petitioner has established that the Office communication was not sent to the correct address, Petitioner has not established that said communication was not forwarded to the current address and subsequently received. Petitioner has not met the requirements outlined above, in that it does not appear that he has:

- Asserted that he has searched the file jacket;
- Asserted that he has searched the docket records;
- Included a copy of the file jacket, and;
- Included a copy of the docket report.

Therefore, Petitioner has not established non-receipt of the communication, and the petition must be **DISMISED**.

CONCLUSION

Any reply must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) are permitted. The reply should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition Under 37 C.F.R. §1.181." This is not a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C 704.

The renewed petition should indicate in a prominent manner that the attorney handling this matter is Paul Shanowski, and may be submitted by mail², hand-delivery³, or facsimile⁴.

Telephone inquiries regarding *this decision* should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3225. All other inquiries concerning examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.



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2 Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

3 Customer Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulaney Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314.

4 (571) 273-8300- please note this is a central facsimile number.